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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);

☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;

☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or

☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

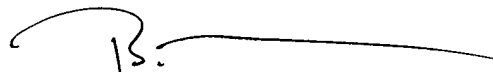
b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified:
- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:
6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

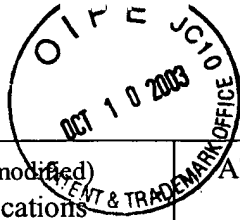
If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-80002/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 10-8-03

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)  
List of Patents and Publications  
For Applicant's Information  
Disclosure Statement  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DKT. NO. 5181-80002

SERIAL NO. 09/943,181

APPLICANT: Heffernan et al.

GROUP: 2661

FILING DATE: August 30, 2001

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAM. INITIALS | REF. DES. | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE    | NAME              | CLASS | SUB CLASS | FILING DATE APPROPRIAT |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------------------|
|                | B1        | 5,881,235       | 3/9/99  | Mills             |       |           |                        |
|                | B2        | 5,881,235       | 3/9/99  | Mills             |       |           |                        |
|                | B3        | 5,803,762       | 9/8/98  | Green             |       |           |                        |
|                | B4        | 5,420,572       | 5/30/95 | Dolin, Jr., et al |       |           |                        |
|                | B5        | 5,420,572       | 5/30/95 | Dolin, Jr., et al |       |           |                        |
|                | B6        | 4,774,399       | 9/27/88 | Fujita, et al     |       |           |                        |
|                |           |                 |         |                   |       |           |                        |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAM. INITIALS | REF. DES. | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB CLASS | TRANSLATIO YES/NO |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------------|
|                | B7        | 00/27093        | 5/11/00  | WO      |       |           |                   |
|                | B8        | 2 342 091       | 4/5/00   | GB      |       |           |                   |
|                | B9        | 2 338 159       | 12/8/99  | GB      |       |           |                   |
|                | B10       | 98/57474        | 12/17/98 | WO      |       |           |                   |
|                | B11       | 98/38761        | 9/3/98   | WO      |       |           |                   |
|                | B12       | 0 899 925       | 8/28/98  | EP      |       |           |                   |
|                | B13       | 06-156152       | 7/7/94   | JP      |       |           |                   |
|                | B14       | 05091111        | 4/9/93   | JP      |       |           |                   |
|                | B15       | 0 556 148       | 1/8/93   | EP      |       |           |                   |
|                |           |                 |          |         |       |           |                   |

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

|  |     |                                                                                         |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | B16 | European Search Report Application Number GB0101215.2 mailed March 28, 2002.            |
|  | B17 | International search report application number PCT/US01/25281 mailed December 14, 2001. |
|  | B18 | International Search Report Application Number GB0021456.9 mailed October 30, 2001.     |
|  |     |                                                                                         |
|  |     |                                                                                         |

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.